

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed June 30, 2006. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, and 14-16 were pending in this Application. Claims 4, 6, 7, 13 and 17 were previously cancelled due to an election/restriction requirement. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, and 14-16 were rejected. Applicant amends Claims 2, 3, 5, 8-9, 11-12, and 14 and cancels Claims 1, 10, and 15-16, and respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, and 14-16 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,235,026 issued to G. P. Roux ("Roux"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the art cited as anticipatory by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present claims.

Claim 8 recites that "a limiting stop is formed on the sealing body in a position which lies within the recess." Relative to Figure 1, the specification teaches that "[a]ny destructive compression of the axial sealing lip 17 can be prevented by a limiting stop 23 on the sealing cuff." (Specification at 7:19-20). Similarly, with respect to Figure 2, the specification teaches that "[a]ny destructive compression of the sealing lip 33 can be prevented by a limiting stop 38." (Specification at 8:15-16). Alternatively, Roux teaches that "the stuffing box is held to the terminal box by a lock nut 19, and a gasket 20, makes a tight joint between the stuffing box and the terminal box." (Roux, 2:81-84). Roux does not teach or suggest a

limiting stop for preventing destructive compression of the gasket 20 or any seal. Thus, the invention as claimed in claim 8 is not anticipated by Roux.

Claim 9 recites that the “the sealing body is attached to the conducting element by a positive retainer comprising: at least one engagement rib provided on the sealing cuff and at least one recess in the connector body.” Claims 2, 3 and 5 depend from claim 9 so as to recite the same limitation. Similarly, claim 14 recites “attaching the sealing body to the conducting element by means of a positive retainer comprising: at least one engagement rib provided on the sealing cuff and at least one recess in the connector body.” Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 14 so as to recite the same limitation. Relative to Figure 1, the specification teaches a positive retainer.

Engagement ribs 13 are provided on the inner side 12 of the sealing cuff 8, and these engage in the recesses 14 in the connector body 3. The radial depth of the engagement ribs 13 and the dimensions of the recesses 14 are chosen so that the sealing cuff 8 is held by the connector body 3 during assembly. In particular, one of the engagement ribs 13 will still project into its associated recess 14 even when a diametrically opposite engagement rib 13 is inserted into the recess 14 up to its limit. The engagement ribs 13 thus serve as a *positive retainer*.

(Specification, 6:23-7:2) (emphasis added). Alternatively, Roux teaches that “the cable is connected to the stuffing box by a lead thimble 14, extending over a projecting ledge 6a on the stuffing box, and a wipe joint 8a is formed, which connects said thimble to the stuffing box.” (Roux, 2:66-71). Roux does not teach or suggest a positive retainer comprising engagement ribs and recesses. Thus, the invention as claimed in claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, and 14 is patentable in view of Roux.

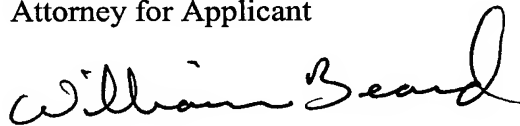
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2690.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Beard".

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